

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1.-5. (canceled).
6. (currently amended): A process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer which comprises containing an organic base in an N-vinyl compound polymer to regulate pH of the polymer, wherein the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.
7. (currently amended): A process for producing an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution which-comprises adding an organic base to an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution having a pH lower than 7.0 to thereby regulate pH of the solution, wherein the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.
8. (currently amended): A process for producing an N-vinyl compound polymer powder which comprises adding an organic base to an aqueous N-vinyl compound polymer solution having a pH lower than 7.0 to thereby regulate pH of the solution and drying the resulting aqueous polymer solution, wherein the organic base comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of triethanolamine, guanidine carbonate and dihydrazide adipate.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Application No. 10/614,193

Attorney Docket No. Q76471

9. (original): The process of claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said organic base is an organic base having a boiling point of 120°C or higher at ordinary pressure.

10. (canceled).

11. (original): The process as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said N-vinyl compound is N-vinyl lactams.

12. (original): The process as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein said N-vinyl compound is N-vinylpyrrolidone.

13.-14. (canceled).